

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MS. MARISA UGARTE, OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE IN THE 52ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Marisa Ugarte, Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC). Ms. Ugarte has worked diligently to combat human trafficking in San Diego County and Tijuana. BSCC's mission is to preserve the dignity and wellbeing of commercially and sexually exploited women and children through prevention, intervention, and education.

In 1997, Marisa Ugarte founded the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, and it was constituted as a 501(c)3 to coordinate services and advocate for victims of human trafficking. Ms. Ugarte's mission became clear when she came across rape camps among the canyons of San Diego, forced labor in agricultural fields, and child prostitutes in Tijuana's infamous Zona Norte. She knew something had to be done. Today, the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition encompasses over 150 government and non-governmental agencies in the United States and Latin America who are dedicated to combating trafficking and empower victims.

Ms. Ugarte convenes an annual anti-trafficking conference in San Diego to bring awareness of the dangers and threats imposed from active human trafficking across both sides of the border. With a plethora of years of experience in human trafficking and crisis intervention case management, Ms. Ugarte is a human rights advocate who rescues victims from the brutal and exploitative system.

Ms. Ugarte has been an active speaker at conferences nationwide and internationally to discuss the commercial and sexual exploitation of woman and children. Her public speaking engagements have included but are not limited to: The Millennium Conference in Texas and the International Institute for Restructuring the Justice System in Mexico.

Ms. Ugarte has received grants from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. State Department to support her work. The International Foundation for Human Rights and Tolerance awarded her for bringing sanctuary to girls in illegal brothels in Southern California who had been smuggled across the border.

Ms. Ugarte was honored as the 52nd District Constituent of the Month, particularly during National Human Trafficking Prevention month in January 2023, for her outstanding commitment to supporting victims of human trafficking.

HONORING TY SAFRENO AND HIS INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to applaud the innovative and compassionate approach exemplified by one of my exceptional constituents—Ty Safreno who implemented a childcare center as part of his business Trust Automation, Inc.

Ty embodies the true spirit of American entrepreneurship. Utilizing his degree in Manufacturing Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Ty began his business in the 1990's alongside his wife Trudie. In just three short decades, he turned his technology start-up into a staple of the Central Coast. Boasting over 100 employees, Trust Automation, Inc. works on cybersecurity, semiconductors, and other technologic advancements.

What makes Ty remarkable is how he treats and cares for community members. He cultivates a workplace environment that emulates a close family dynamic and is described as brightening people's day. Amongst the Safreno family's achievements is successfully installing the Trust Children's Center, an affordable and high-quality daycare center that services both Trust employees and the San Luis Obispo community. On-site childcare is a feat that only a few companies, let alone a small business, have successfully conquered. Ty's commitment to the well-being of his employees is equally impressive and commendable.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Ty for his well-earned title of 2022 San Luis Obispo Citizen of the Year. I would like to personally thank Ty for his admirable leadership and wish him well in all his future endeavors. His story is an inspiration to small businesses everywhere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my electronic voting system malfunctioned and I was unable to submit my vote in a timely manner. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 112.

CONGRATULATING SERBIA ON ITS STATEHOOD DAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Serbian Caucus, I

offer my congratulations to Serbia on its Statehood Day, February 15th.

Statehood Day is celebrated in Serbia every year on this day to commemorate the outbreak of the First Serbian Uprising in 1804 which evolved into the Serbian revolution against Ottoman rule. These events eventually resulted in Serbia's independence in 1835.

On the same day, February 15, in 1835, the first Serbian constitution was adopted in Kragujevac. I am grateful that this day is also the 142nd anniversary of formal relations between the United States and Serbia.

The U.S. and Serbia have a long history of partnership including serving side by side during World War II.

Former President Donald Trump took historic steps to negotiate a normalization agreement between Serbia and Kosovo and I remain optimistic that this agreement will achieve even more progress in the future.

God bless the United States of America and God bless the people of Serbia.

HONORING DR. EVANS WHITAKER FOR 20 YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership of Dr. Evans P. Whitaker, President of Anderson University, as well as his wife, Mrs. Diane Whitaker,

In 2002, Dr. Whitaker assumed the presidency of Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina, and in just 2 decades, the university's student population has more than doubled. Anderson College was chartered more than a century ago in 1911 and was one of the first institutions of higher learning for women in the United States. In 2006, it officially became Anderson University under Dr. Whitaker. In under 20 years with Dr. Whitaker at the helm, Anderson University has grown from barely 1,600 students to roughly 4,200 students, making it South Carolina's largest private university and the 16th fastest-growing regional university in the last decade.

Under Dr. Whitaker's visionary leadership, he has ushered the university into its modern era and established a legacy of accomplishments, including increasing the campus size from 68 acres to 400 acres and bringing the university's academics to the next level. He has also seen the university launch 26 graduate programs, establish the South Carolina School of the Arts, begin the Undergraduate Center for Cancer Research, be recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a Great College to Work For, and experience more than \$100 million in capital improvement, including a new library, student center, athletic facilities, and 2 new academic buildings. Dr. Whitaker is also a leader in the Anderson community, South Carolina, and beyond, and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

holds various leadership positions on the community, state, and national levels.

Congratulations to Dr. Whitaker and his wife, Diane (and her commitment to baking her famous chocolate chip cookies for every student), for 20 years at AU and for helping shape the university into a premier Christian university and among the best regional universities in the South. The university has remained committed to preparing students with the knowledge they need to be successful in their careers, and more importantly, to thrive in all areas of life, including family, community, and faith. AU is truly an Academically Excellent, Faith-filled, Hospitable, Purpose-driven place that provides students with a rigorous educational experience, grounded in faith and innovation.

I am proud to represent Anderson University in Congress and am excited to see the university continue to grow and instill in students "Knowledge for your Journey" in an intentionally Christian environment. God Bless Anderson University and Go Trojans.

EVERGREEN RURAL WATER OF
WASHINGTON

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Zillah for winning the Evergreen Rural Water of Washington's Best Tasting Water contest at their 2022 Fall Conference in Yakima this past August.

The Evergreen Rural Water of Washington's Best Tasting Water contest tasted about a dozen entries from across our great state and chose the City of Zillah as the best tasting, earning them a spot in the national water taste test through the National Rural Water Association.

The Great American Water Taste Test, which is held annually, pits the top water systems from each state against each other to vie for the title of Best Water in the USA. The water is judged on clarity, bouquet and taste in addition to meeting water quality regulations set by the state and federal governments. These include testing the water for pathogens and contaminants, protecting the water source from pollution, and employing certified water operators.

This year, on February 8, 2023, I am proud to say the City of Zillah took second place in the Nation.

It is an honor to represent the men and women of the City of Zillah, the Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, and all the groups who provide the best water and wastewater systems throughout Central Washington.

RECOGNIZING KATHRYN A. KUHN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathryn A. Kuhn. Kathryn is retiring after more than 30 years of leadership and service in federal, state, and local

government and community relations, with leadership roles in both the private and public sector.

Kathryn served as the Associate Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Milwaukee County where she led federal relations from 1993 to 2000. During this time, she worked with the U.S. Congress to transfer land ownership from the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans' Administration Medical Center Facility VA to the stadium district, making way for the construction of Miller Park. Also, she secured a change in state statutes which facilitated the sale of Doyme County Hospital to Froedtert. As Legislative Associate at Wisconsin Counties Association, Kathryn secured a waiver from the George H. W. Bush Administration for Wisconsin's juvenile justice facilities that saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

However, Kathryn's greatest achievements came from her position as Vice President of Government and Community Relations at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Kathryn joined the MCW in 2001 as Director of Government Affairs and was subsequently appointed Associate Vice President of Government Affairs and then Vice President.

During her tenure at MCW, Kathryn's leadership has directly resulted in tens of millions of dollars in funding to support MCW's missions including the creation of MCW's regional campuses as a signature strategy for addressing the projected physician shortage. In 2013, her advocacy efforts with state legislators led to a \$7.4 million State Building Commission grant for the development of MCW-Green Bay and MCW-Central Wisconsin. She also advocated for the creation of a \$5 million graduate program to fund a medical education grant program within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to assist MCW create and expand residency programs across the state. In addition, she helped secure multiple increases for the MCW family and community medicine residency appropriations to support programs in southeast Wisconsin, Green Bay, Appleton, and Eau Claire and worked with elected officials to obtain a \$25 million State Building Commission grant for aiding in the construction of MCW's Translational and Biomedical Research Center. Finally, she succeeded in securing an additional \$5 million federal grant to supplement these state funds.

Kathryn's legacy at MCW extends into the research mission. She has helped to provide critical infrastructure and laboratory space for MCW scientists pursuing new discoveries, as well as helped to open a new avenue of funding support through the U.S. Department of Defense that has led to considerable growth in extramural funding. Kathryn also has provided expert guidance to investigators with research strengths that match scientific priorities at the U.S. Department of Defense. This includes MCW's Center for Neurotrauma Research in the Department of Neurosurgery, which has been a key partner in the Concussion Assessment, Research and Education Consortium, the nation's largest and most comprehensive study of traumatic brain injury in U.S. military service academy cadets and collegiate athletes.

Finally, Kathryn worked to enhance access to specialty care throughout Wisconsin, including overseeing efforts to support the creation of the Wisconsin Child Psychiatry Consultation Program. The program has improved access to mental and behavioral healthcare through a

hotline for primary care physicians. The program greatly benefited children and adolescents with mental health challenges and educated primary care providers on how to better manage their patients' mental health needs. The program now covers the entire state of Wisconsin thanks to \$2 million of ongoing, annual funding in the state budget.

Kathryn Kuhn has been recognized throughout MCW for her expertise and dedication displayed in settings from major hearings to individual meetings with elected officials in many locations throughout Wisconsin. I am pleased to say that I have had the privilege of meeting with her on many occasions over the past 25 years while I served at both the state and federal levels. She always came extremely well-prepared and knowledgeable about the topic and programs she supported. I have developed a strong relationship with Kathryn Kuhn over the years and consider her a friend. Kathryn is kind and reaches out to assist whenever possible and sees a need to assist MCW, individuals, and the community at large.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to recognize Kathryn A. Kuhn and her lifelong service in the medical field to Wisconsinites and Americans everywhere. I wish her a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING MR. ALEX
VILLAFUERTE, OUTSTANDING
VOLUNTEER IN THE 52ND CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alex Villafuerte, outstanding advocate and community member in the 52nd Congressional District.

Mr. Villafuerte is a committed volunteer, working tirelessly to uplift, empower, and serve our Asian and Pacific Islander (API), multicultural and other diverse communities. He is the co-chair and co-founder of the San Diego API Coalition, whose mission is to facilitate conversations with API communities and advocate for representation by amplifying and cultivating leadership. He helped organize a joint statement with more than 70 API-serving organizations denouncing the xenophobia, racism, and increasing acts of violence toward API communities.

Mr. Villafuerte was the Director of Marketing and Communications at San Diego Pride. He also helped to create the San Diego Queer APIMEDA Coalition, with the goal of creating a safe and welcoming space for meaningful discussion about the intersection of individuals who identify as Desi, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, Asian and LGBTQ+.

Mr. Villafuerte served as Director of Communication and Community Engagement for San Diego City Councilmember Kent Lee. He now serves as the Executive Director for the Pacific Arts Movement. He continues to work to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion for all in our region.

Mr. Villafuerte was honored as the 51st District Constituent of the Month in May 2022, during Asian American and Pacific Islander Month. He is recognized for his work in uplifting and empowering our multicultural communities of the Congressional District. He holds a